

UMOJA DANCE COMPANY
&
NEWARK SYMPHONY HALL
PROUDLY PRESENT THE

4TH ANNUAL

WOFABE

AFRICAN DANCE AND DRUM FESTIVAL



SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2009

NEWARK, SYMPHONY HALL
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Dear Sister Karen Love
and

WOFABE

The world joins me in sending congratulations
for yet another anniversary

*Never lose sight of your goals.
Continue to support all dance until time ceases to exist*



Peace & Love

Baba Chuck Davis

Artistic Director, A.A.D.E

DANCEAFRICA AMERICA

New York, Dallas, Chicago, Wash DC, Durham, Columbus OH

CULTURAL ARTS SAFARI 2010

"Dance is the Universal Language" "Unity for President Obama"

Umoja
Dance Company
and
Newark
Symphony Hall

presents

W O F A B E

"Everybody Come"

**4th Annual
AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM
FESTIVAL**

November 21, 2009

Newark Symphony Hall
Newark, NJ



On behalf of Umoja Dance Company
and the
Festival Committee

We Thank You

for your
Support, Love, and Patience.

Dance ~ Culture ~ Respect

Ashe... Ashe... Ashe...

Festival Sponsors



Umoja
Dance Company



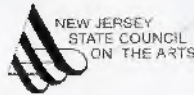
Newark
Symphony Hall



Prudential



United States
Census 2010



Essex County Division
of Cultural and Historic Affairs

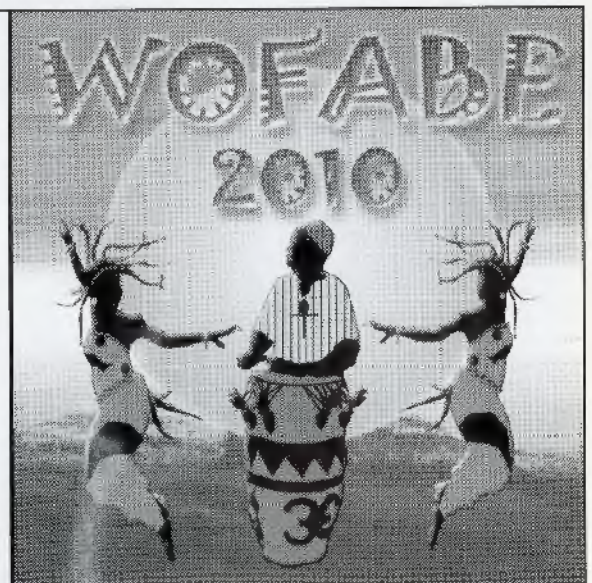
This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and Administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

save the date...

WOFABE 2010
October 22-24

*If you interested in joining the festival committee,
making a donation or volunteering,
please email:*

wofabefestival@aol.com



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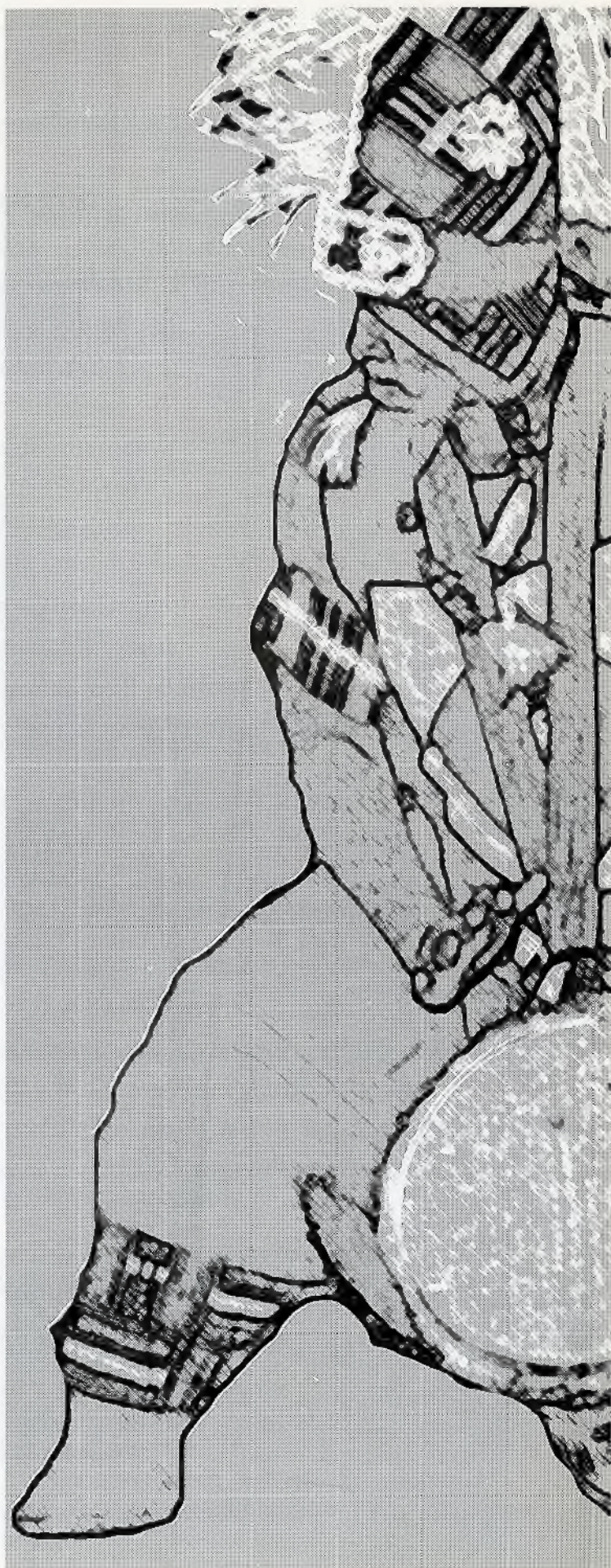
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Thank You

Special thanks to our festival teachers and dance companies.

Teachers

Baba Chuck Davis
M'bemba Bangoura
Jewel Jackson
Ciru Karanja
Assane Konte
Yousseuf Koumbassa
Danys Perez LaMora
Mangue Sylla

Companies

African Soul International
KanKouran West African Dance Company
LaRocque Bey School of Dance Theatre



Special Thanks:

The Festival Committee, Newark Board of Education, Osibee J. Jelks, Jana Burton, Yvonne Onque, Umoja Dance Company members, Usaama Dance Company members, Carthy Dorset, Patrons, Sponsors, Evelyn Grant, Derek Garrett, Ronald J. Tomaino, technical crew, custodial staff, security staff, festival volunteers, vendors, and journal advertisers.

To those not acknowledged please forgive my memory lapse.
Charge it to my head and not my heart

With Sincere Gratitude

Karen L. Love

Wofabe

African Dance and Drum Festival

Wofabe means "everybody come" in the Sou Sou language of Guinea, West Africa. We are proud to celebrate our fourth year of presenting African dance and culture in New Jersey. We are honored that you all continue to help bring our dream to fruition. Thank you for embracing the beauty and passion of African dance and drum.

Namaste

"The divine in me honors the divine in you"

Mission

The mission of Wofabe: African Dance and Drum Festival is to preserve and share the finest traditions of African dance and drumming and to encourage cross-cultural understanding. Our overall mission is to celebrate traditional African culture, aesthetics and values as resources for all people. We plan to utilize the resources and information gathered from this and other events to further promote the art form in New Jersey.

Goals

- To teach, learn and exchange historical information on specific aspects of African culture as it pertains to dance, music and drumming.
- To introduce and present African dance/drum instructors to the New Jersey community.
- To identify African dance resources existing in New Jersey (i.e. performance groups, instructors, venues, festivals, presenters, etc.)
- To establish a network and develop a database of teachers of African dance and drumming.
- To showcase the talents of local African dance and drum ensembles.

Objectives

- Demonstrate the powerful relationship and inter-connectedness between these art forms and people of all cultural backgrounds.
- Create a positive outlet for youth by demonstrating that African dancing and drumming is for people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.
- Increase community education and awareness of these important art forms
- Gather and share information on the available resources.
- Provide an outlet for groups and individuals working in these disciplines to share their talents with their peers and the community at large.



(Chief)

Dr. Baba Chuck Davis

Master of Ceremonies/ Honorary Chairperson

Dr. Baba Chuck Davis, a native North Carolinian, is Founder and Artistic Director of the African American Dance Ensemble, the New York-based Dance Africa and the internationally acclaimed CULTURAL ARTS SAFARI, attended Howard University and continued his studies in African dance under the guidance of Babatunde Olatunji, Eleo Pomare, Mama Pearl Primus, Mama Thelma Hill and the Bernice Johnson Dance Company. His growing reputation as one of the foremost and accomplished choreographers and teachers in the traditional techniques of African dance compelled the American Dance Festival of Durham, NC, to recruit him for the position of Artist-in-Residence and to head up its outreach program. His desire to reach the young people of Durham who shared his enthusiasm and discipline for dance, was the fountainhead from which sprung the African American Dance Ensemble. He has nurtured and led the Ensemble on a course to become one of the truly premier dance companies of any kind touring the nation today.

Dr. Davis keeps a full schedule including appearances with the Ensemble, guest artist directorships, choreographer assignments, and research and travel excursions to Africa and international points. He is the founder and facilitator of the Cultural Arts Safari, which makes an annual pilgrimage to the continent of Africa.

Dr. Davis has been a panelist for several programs of the NEA. Since 1991 he has served as a Governor-appointed member of the Board for the North Carolina Arts Council where he sits on the Dance panel. In 1992, he was the recipient of the North Carolina Award in Fine Arts for his impressive and unique contribution to African American culture. This is the highest honor the state can bestow in the Arts. Dr. Davis is a recipient of the NY Bessie Award and the very prestigious Brooklyn Academy of Music Award for distinguished service to the arts world and beyond. In December of 1998, he received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Medgar Evers College of New York. He has also received an Honorary Doctorates from Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

Dr. Davis and DanceAfrica were recognized by the Dance Heritage Coalition as one of the first 100 Irreplaceable Dance Treasures in the United States. In February 2002 he was presented The Advocacy Award in recognition of dedication and commitment to Civil Rights advocacy, especially on behalf of People with Developmental Disabilities, by the Durham Human Relations Commission. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus awarded Dr. Davis with a citation for his years of distinguished service, loyalty and commitment to the arts as well as lauding him as a foremost, distinguished and accomplished choreographer and teacher in the traditional techniques of African American Dance. Dr. Davis has been selected Artist of the Year by DanceUSA. He has also received the 2002 National Governor's Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts. The City of Durham declared August 5, 2002 as Chuck Davis Day in recognition of his accomplishments and contributions to the arts. North Carolina Dance Alliance has chosen Dr. Davis as the recipient of their 2002 award in recognition of his years of dedication to the advancement of dance in North Carolina, the nation, and the world. The coveted CAPEZIO AWARD was presented to Baba Chuck during the Grand Opening of DanceAfrica, Brooklyn, May, 2008. Earlier this month, October, Baba Chuck received The Medal of Arts Award presented by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission.



Sister Fredrica Bey

Mistress of Ceremonies

Fredrica Bey is a native of Newark, New Jersey. She grew up in Newark's old Third Ward on 15th Avenue, also known as "The Hill", and was educated in Newark Public Schools with her nine siblings. Fredrica went on to attend Essex County College before majoring in Business Administration at Kean University.

Fredrica has held many jobs to support her family over the years. She has worked as a Teacher's Assistant, a Counselor, and she even built cars on an assembly line at Ford Motors for a time. Beginning in 1980, she spent many years working for the Newark Board of Education Title I Program. In 1990, she became a licensed Realtor and has been awarded many times as a top seller in the State of New Jersey.

Fredrica's most profitable and rewarding work has come from working in the community. Whether it has been chairing the PTA, presiding over the tenants association or working with her neighborhood block association, Fredrica Bey has always been extremely civic minded and a constant advocate for her fellow citizens. In 1992, Fredrica became increasingly concerned about the disregard of basic civil and human rights of people of color. Inspired by the original work and organization of the Honorable Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Fredrica realized that a massive silent lynching continues to plague this country. Determined to bring this plight into focus, she organized the Anti Lynching Campaign. Fredrica is a proud member of many organizations; however, none are as personal to her heart as Women in Support Of the Million Man March, Inc. (WISOMMM, Inc.).

The year 1995 was one of the most important years of Fredrica's life. She first fulfilled a life long dream of making Hajj. Hajj, the Fifth (5th) Pillar of Islam, is where a Muslim makes the pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca and performs specific religious rituals as a spiritual rite of passage. The Hajj is obligatory on every Muslim who is able to make the journey. After the completion of the Hajj, Fredrica was given the title of Hajja, therefore being known in the Muslim community as Hajja Fredrica Bey – a title of much reverence and significance. Later that year Fredrica was blessed with the birth of her twin grandsons, who have since become the joy of her life. And then came the Million Man March.

The Million Man March was convened on October 16, 1995 by the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, Leader of the Nation of Islam. Minister Farrakhan made a national call to black men to come to Washington, D.C. to atone for their shortcomings, recommit themselves to their families, loved ones and communities and work together for the advancement of our people. Fredrica was so moved by the Minister's call that she worked diligently as Treasurer of the Million Man March Local Organizing Committee. She was also asked to spearhead a women's contingent to the march called the Women In Support Of the Million Man March (WISOMMM). Fredrica led the women's group in registering voters and helped send over 50,000 men from the State of New Jersey to the Million Man March.

Fredrica decided after the march to keep the committed group of 23 women together. In 1996, WISOMMM incorporated, and in 1997, Fredrica led this group of women of diverse professional and religious backgrounds to purchase a 19th Century Victorian Mansion (known as WISOMMM Mansion) in the Historic Lincoln Park District of Newark, NJ as their Headquarters. That location at 53 Lincoln Park is currently home to WISOMMM's own Adelaide L. Sanford Charter School opened in 2006. In 2001, WISOMMM purchased another 19th Century Victorian Mansion in Newark. This facility houses the Newark Teacher's Association and the Newark Branch of the NAACP. In 2004, Fredrica's vision continued to expand when she facilitated the acquisition of the former Presbytery at James Street. This \$5 million dollar property on the corners of Washington and James Streets in Newark is actually a church and two adjoining buildings totaling 65,000 square feet. The WISOMMM African American Education and Cultural Resource Center is now home to the expanded WISOMMM Holistic Child Care Center, WISOMMM Event Services, Muhammad's Mosque #25, Torchlight Academy, Fresh Anointing International Church, Striving Together Equals Progress (S.T.E.P.) - male mentoring program, and a host of other activities and programs for the community.

Fredrica has always given all of the praise and glory to the Creator, and continues to thank the Ancestors for their faith and struggle. Her favorite saying is "Victory belongs to those who believe".



(excellence)

Kankouran West African Dance Company

Kankouran West African Dance Company was founded for the purpose of contributing to the extension of the arts by introducing the essence of traditional African dancing and drumming to audiences; enriching American cultural heritage through the integration of authentic West African performing arts; and promoting intercultural understanding through education and the performing arts.

Kankouran was formed in 1983, in Washington, DC, by Artistic Director Assane Konte and former Director of Music, Abdou Kounta, who grew up together in Dakar, Senegal. After many months of recruiting, training and performing at local venues, the Company presented its first full-length concert, "A Visit to Africa" in 1985, and with that performance, an institution was born. Although many dancers and drummers have come and gone, Kankouran continues to this day under the leadership of its co-founder/Artistic Director, Assane Konte. Over the years, Kankouran has established itself as a premier center for the study and performance of traditional West African dancing and drumming and as a communal home for artists and art-lovers. Weekly classes for adults and children have been a key component of furthering the Company's mission and establishing an appreciation for African performing arts in the United States. Kankouran's annual African dance and drum festivals are among the largest, longest-running gatherings of student- through master-level African dancers and drummers. The Company has also worked extensively to bring African dance and drum to children of all ages via various in-school, after-school, and extra-curricular programs.

Kankouran's Senior professional company has performed at thousands of local, national, and international venues. The company's outstanding reputation has spawned numerous alliances/collaborations with organizations and institutions throughout the United States and abroad. Kankouran is unique in that only the Artistic Director is originally from Africa. All of its dancers and drummers are residents of the District of Columbia. Therefore it is an honor and a true testament to Kankouran's stage presence, professionalism, and artistic accuracy when the company is invited to national and international events to represent Africa.

Kankouran's repertoire is a brilliant reflection of the excellence in artistry and performance that is so widely associated with the Company. Over the years, the artistic and musical directors have met the great challenge of adapting traditional African dancing and drumming in a Western performance context; communicating the rich and complex history and culture of West Africa with the technical prowess, energy and grace that entertains and moves audiences everywhere. The overwhelming majority of the dances/rhythms performed are from Senegal, Guinea, Gambia and Mali, with works set to the most prevalent percussion orchestras used in those regions: Djembe, Kutiro, and Sabar.



(fear nothing but God)

LaRocque Bey School of Dance Theatre

The LaRocque Bey dancers and drummers are a professional performing group that consists of an adult dance company, junior company, youth ensemble and a children's company.

We are highly regarded for our innovative repertory preserving traditional African Dance while creating new works that build on African and African cultural traditions. The Company has appeared extensively throughout the east coast, mid-west, Canada, London, Italy, Detroit, Chicago, Virginia, just to name a few locations. We also have performed at many venues at home such as The United Nations, The Cotton Club, The Savor Manor Ball Room, Smalls Paradise, The Apollo Theater, NJPAC, Brooklyn Academy Of Music, Waldorf Astoria, ballrooms, night clubs, major theaters, hospitals, elementary, junior high, high schools, colleges, institutions, community affairs and cultural affairs as well as television, movies, on- and off-Broadway productions and music videos.

We have worked with many artists, with the likes of Aretha Franklin, Cab Calloway, Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee, Savion Glover, Phyllis Yvonne Stickney, Phylicia Rashad, Debbie Allan, George Clinton, and the list goes on. We feel it is very important to keep our cultural traditions and fiery energy of LaRocque Bey alive and spread our cultural message to all those we come in contact with.



(sharing one stomach)

Company Biographies

African Soul International

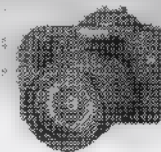
Africa Soul International is an innovative creative and artistic leader in developing solutions to educational and social issues within our community. We were founded in 1998 by a collection of artists who wanted to use their talents, skills and gifts to help youth in our community.

We have developed three primary branches of service: our professional performing ensemble, our community and educational outreach, and our annual conference.

As a professional ensemble, we have performed in Los Angeles with Ms. Debbie Allen and in The Gambia, West Africa with GRAMMY Award-winning artist Youssou N'dour of Senegal.

We are constantly in a state of continuous study and learning as we attend up to five international conferences a year in Oakland, New York City, Washington, DC, Atlanta and more. We are building community through the arts and inspiring youth and families to achieve greatness in their academic, social and community lives.

Derek J. Garrett



908-337-3448 CELL

dgar107154@aol.com

WWW.DJGSTUDIO.COM

Festival Schedule

DAYTIME SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 am -10:45 am

Ciru Karanja - Yoga

11:00 am -12:30 pm

LaMora - Afro Cuban

11:00 am -12:30 pm

Jewel Jackson - Free Childrens Class

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm

Assane Konte - (Senegal) Kutiro Dance

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm

M'bemba Bangoura - Drum Class

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Baba Chuck Davis - African Dance

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Mangue Sylla - Djun Djun Drum & Dance

4:15 pm - 5:45 pm

Youssouf Koumbassa - Guinea Dance

MAIN STAGE CONCERT

Showtime: 7:00 PM Sharp

Performances by:

Kankouran

West African Dance Company (DC)

LaRocque Bey

School of Dance Theatre (NYC)

African Soul International (OH)

Hosted by

Baba Chuck Davis

Mistress of Ceremonies

Sister Fredrica Bey

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Member of NGH, IMDHA, NACH

program

WELCOME

LaRocque Bey School of Dance Theatre, Inc

Harlem Since 1960

Artistic & Musical Director: Brother Jerome Hunter
Presents a collage of works by Brother Jerome Hunter & The Late LaRocque Bey
Keeping the legacy & fiery energy of LaRocque Bey Alive

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Owo | 4. Doun dounba |
| 2. Sinte' | 5. Sorsornet |
| 3. Manjiani | 6. Kou Kou |
| | 7. Finale |

Dancers

1. LaNiece Mobley, Chiquita Payne, Meme Micksen, Fatma Logan, Thomas Mitchell
2. Maisha Thompson, Arica Clark, Chiniqua Reina do, Maria Manderson, Geraldine Chisolm,
3. Ameenah Hunter, Mecca Harris, Tomme Garvin, Ailish Gooney
4. Nia Haynes, Vontay Byrd, Brittney Butler
5. Chelsea Seaborn, Tiana Coleman
6. Shenel Weeks, Shauna Gadsen

Drummers:

Brother Jerome Hunter: Musical & Artistic Director, Suquan Hutson, David Alston, Frank Maloy, Eddie Jones

Costumes: LaNiece Mobley, Seamster: Abu

PAUSE

African Soul International

Artistic Director: Sista Jewel (Adama Conteh)

Dancers:

Afrika Bakenra, Sesa Bakenra, Timothly (TJ) Reddick, Matthew (Meache) Martin, Isatu N'diaye, Kaitlin Branham, Brianna Jordan, Deja Linson, Sista Jewel (Adama Conteh), Joshua White, Tashie White.

Drummers:

Papa Assane M'baye, Cheikh N'dong, SaNu Baraka, Mamadou Gnigwe

The Senegalese Suite:

A tribute to our teachers, Assane Konte, Marie Basse Wiles, Djibi Traore, Tacko Sissoko, Jaji Madi Kanuteh, and Babacar N'diaye...

Lambang- the dance for the King. This is our spiritual tribute to God who has created us all, and created the dance, the history and the culture of our ancestors.

Bara M'baye This dance of the Sabar drums is a tribute to the social dances of Senegal that are taking the world by storm...the legend is that Bara M'baye is named after a dancer who did it so well. We strive to be the best in all we do, so we pay tribute to those great dancers, drummers, and teachers who have kept the history alive.

Balanta-The Ballanta people were warriors, they fought against oppression of their people, fighting off oppressors, damaging slave ships and re-capturing people through the night. We need to be warriors for the social issues of today, for although slavery and captivity are not current social conditions, poverty and low self-image are. May we be warriors for the children of today, for although they are 20% of our population, they are 100% of our future.

Ekonkon/Anye enon- This dance is a tribute to those who have yet to come, this dance is done for the babies. So we celebrate the lives that God has yet to send to the Earth, may we welcome them in peace and prepare a great place for them.

Intermission

African Soul International

The Guinea Suite

A tribute to our teachers: Youssouf Koumbassa, Mouminatou Camara, A seny Soumah, Hamidou Koivoigui, and Kemoko Sano.

The Guinea Suite begins with Soli and the entrance of the young innocent girls on the shoulder of the men of the village. In Mali, this tradition is held to honor the "Do not open" sea that God placed in all His daughters. Guinea, being a part of the Mali kingdom maintains the dances that are in this suite. From Soli, we honor the ladies through the drum- a medley of different Guinea rhythms done in a way that only the sistas can do.

Finally, we offer Kuku...a common celebration dance that is done to celebrate the harvest. The children are our harvest, everything that we work for, sacrifice for and commit to is for their benefit and blessing. We work the land, we measure the distance of the plants, we calculate how deep the plant should be placed in the ground, and we water it and keep the weeds away. The land is our daily struggles through life, this distance between the plants is the care that we take to properly educate and acculturate our children, the ground is this Earth, the water is their spiritual, physical and emotional food, as well as a good education. Lastly, the weeds are the drugs, the bad friends, the negative television shows and the other things that will choke the spirit from our children and keep them from their destiny....They are the tree that we planted, and we want them to grow strong and flourish with many tall, fruitful branches.

May they stay humble and learn from us, and may we remember that they are watching what we do, as well as whatever we say. We pray that you have enjoyed African Soul International and that something that we did touched **YOUR African Soul!**

PAUSE

KanKouran West African Dance Company

Bara

Choreography:

Assane Konte

Costumes:

Assane Konte

Senior Company Dancers:

Antoinette Hercules-Connell, Sue Ann Forde, Nzinga Tuli, Yolanda Ackles, Marcia King, Veronica Hunte-Thomas, Ateya Ball Lacy, Ama Tyus, Yakenda McGahee, Mabinty Bangura-Looky, Kevin Waller, Anderson Padmore, Darryl McDuffie, Kevin McIntosh, Daunte Fyall

Senior Company Musicians:

Gary Connell, Sr., Kuumba King, Arthur Coe, Al Rahmaan, Joseph Ngwa, Roy Horton, Tammer Ramini, De'Vaughn Mills, Agyei Axum

Committee Biographies



(beauty)

Karen L. Love

Wofabe Festival Coordinator

Founder/Artistic Director: Umoja Dance Company & Usaama Dance Company

Born in Montclair, Love earned her MFA from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and her B.F.A. from Montclair State University where she was awarded the Excellence in Choreography Award and the Outstanding Senior Award. She received The New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship Grant, and the Harkness Choreographers Space Grant at SUNY Purchase. In 1997, Love was invited to The Bates Dance Festival in Maine as an Emerging Choreographer and later returned to teach for the Young Dancers Program. She was selected as a choreographer for the Choreographer/Dancer residency at the Yard on Martha's Vineyard, recognized in Who's Who Among American Teachers 2004 and 2005 and was honored as one of the "50 Women You Should Know in Montclair, NJ".

Presently, Love is the director of the Dance Department at Hillside High School in NJ and the director of the After School Dance Program for Hillside Public School District. Love is a certified Pilates Mat Instructor and a certified Yoga instructor and is a registered teacher with Yoga Alliance. Karen is a proud member of Agape Family Worship Center located in Rahway, NJ.

She traveled to Australia as a representative for the dance department of Montclair State University where she both performed and taught classes in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. She has performed with Urban Bush Women, Gallmans Newark Dance Theatre, and The VonHoward Project. Love has studied West African dance for the past 15 years and was awarded two consecutive Folk Artist Apprenticeships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to study Guinean Dance with Master Teacher M' Bemba Bangoura. Love has traveled to Guinea, West Africa, Mexico and Bermuda under the tutelage of Bangoura. In 2001 and 2007, Love traveled to Morocco, Senegal and the Gambia, West Africa under the direction of Baba Chuck Davis.

Love is a former Visiting Artist in Residence at Kent State University in Ohio and a former adjunct professor at Montclair State University. Her choreography has been commissioned and presented at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, DTW Freshtracks, Aaron Davis Hall, The Yard, Symphony Space, Danspace, Joyce Soho, Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center, Bates Dance Festival, Duke University, Northern Illinois University, Montclair State University, NYU, and Newark Arts High School.



(patience)

Philip S. Thomas

Producing Director

Philip S. Thomas is Executive Director of Newark Symphony Hall. Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall in May 2007 and is responsible for launching a revitalization effort to return the complex to its former role as a major venue for hosting and presenting a full range of music, dance and theater performances. Newark Symphony Hall consists of the Sarah Vaughan Concert Hall (2,800 seats), Terrace Ballroom (1,000 seats), the Newark Stage (220 seats), and the Studio Theater (75 seats). He provides oversight for the governance, human resource, finance, marketing, rental, presenting, and capital operations of the venue.

Philip S. Thomas was previously the Vice President of Arts Education at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), the 6th largest performing arts center in the United States. Mr. Thomas joined NJPAC in 1992 as the Founding Director for Arts Education, and was responsible for developing a comprehensive Arts Education Department for NJPAC that includes a \$3.5 million annual budget and 18 full-time staff members. Mr. Thomas also served on the team responsible for the \$4.5 million renovation of the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education (a 29,000 sq. ft. arts education facility.)

Philip S. Thomas also serves as President of Performing Arts Services which provides cultural planning services in the areas of artistic programming, arts education, marketing, community engagement, and facilities planning for individual artists, arts institutions, education organizations, corporations and government agencies. Performing Arts Services also provides business services and creative direction to performing artists and companies in conceptualizing, financing, producing and touring artistic programming in music, dance, theater, and the literary arts.

Philip S. Thomas received a B.A. degree in theater from Montclair State University



(freedom)

Christine Smith
Company Manager Umoja Dance Company

"I am because GOD is"

Christine Smith received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Montclair State College. Additionally, she earned a Masters degree in Special Education from Kean College. She began a teaching career in Fort Myers, Florida in 1977. She also taught in the Newark Public School District before joining the Montclair High School faculty in 1986, where she currently teaches and facilitates students' acquisition of skills and knowledge via computer generated interactive Life Skills curriculum.

After twenty-two years at MHS her credits include: one of four Lead Teachers in the institution of a small learning community pilot curriculum titled Youth Leadership Academy, Faculty Advisor to two unique diversity culture clubs, producer/coordinator of the annual Dr. MLK. Jr. and Black History Month school wide assembly programs, former Assistant Director of the MHS School of Visual and Performing Arts Dance Company, home instructor, and supervisor for MHS Saturday detention program. She currently serves as a Clinical Faculty member in the New Jersey Network at Montclair State University. Christine maintains active membership in several professional organizations.

Although focused on a teaching career for the past 29 years, she has applied a combination of practical and academic experience to other areas of interest. Her professional career outside of teaching includes Company Manager for the Umoja Dance Company for the past 9 years. Continuing in this capacity she assumes responsibilities for marketing, procuring and negotiating performance contract, and securing performance venues for the company. Working with the Company has allowed her an opportunity to study authentic traditional African dance techniques abroad in Africa under the direction of "Master Teachers" of this important cultural art form. Chris also loves to dance and sing, and to that end she instituted and served as former director to the St. James AME Church Liturgical Dance Ministry of Newark, NJ. She has performed in several area plays, choreodramas, and concert choirs throughout the metropolitan area. She is member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church and a devoted member of the MBC Concert Choir. "To GOD be the Glory for the things He has done!"

Wofabe Festival Committee

Karen L. Love

Festival Coordinator

Philip S. Thomas

Producing Director

Dr. Baba Chuck Davis

Master of Ceremonies / Honorary Chairperson

Donna Bost White

Registration Coordinator

Christine Smith

Fundraising

Carthy Dorset

Production Manager, Marketing

Volunteer Chairperson

Lisa Morris

Betty Robinson

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Jakatora Tjoutuku

Shatina Edwards

Lisa Morris

Newark Public Schools Liason

Nikkia Tyrie

Festival Photographer

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Doris Walker- Bennett, Ph. D

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Umoja Dance Company

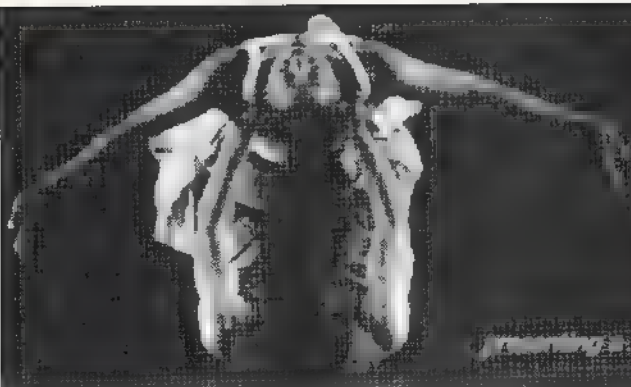
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Karen.L. Love

Founder/Artistic Director

Rhonda Holland

Associate Director



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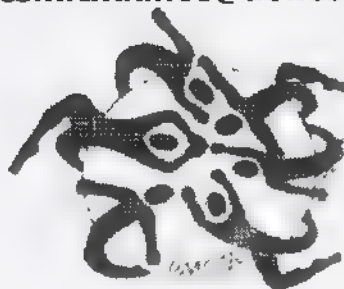
or contact

Christine Smith

Company Manager

973.783.5337

csmithdance@aol.com



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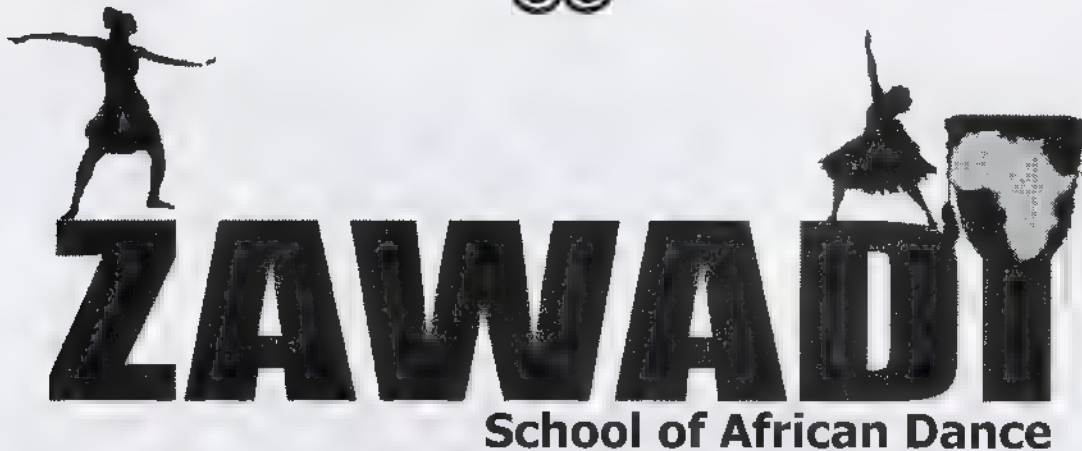
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Sat, Dec 19 at 2:00 & 5:00
The Spirit of Kwanzaa
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Sat, Dec 19 12:00-5:00 *Free!*
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Sat, Dec 20 at 12:30
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Thu, Jan 15 at 7:00
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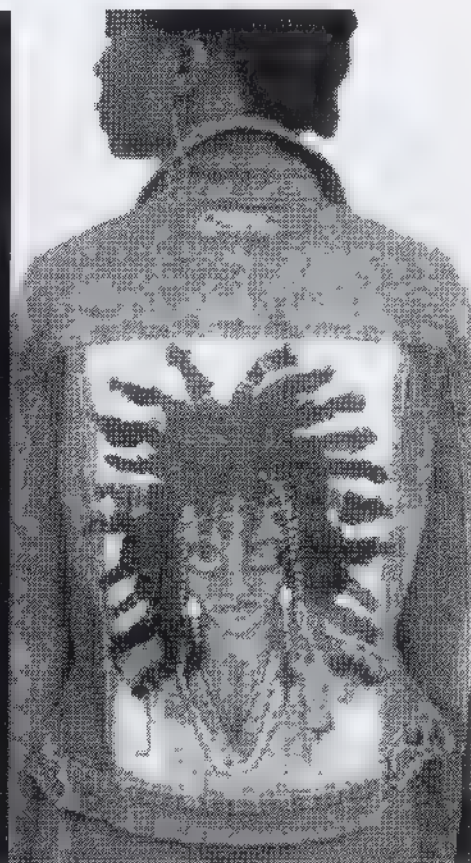
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